

# ALASKA FARM REPORTER

Alaska Division of Agriculture  
Alaska Cooperative Extension  
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS SERVICE

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## ALASKA JUNE ACREAGE SURVEY

**BARLEY** planted for all purposes is estimated at 5,000 acres, and compares with the 4,600 acres in 2005. **Tanana Valley** growers seeded nearly 4,600 acres compared with 4,300 acres in 2005. The majority of this acreage is in the Delta Junction area. Barley seeded in the **Matanuska Valley** and elsewhere in the State totaled 400 acres, up from 300 acres in 2005.

Alaska farmers seeded 1,900 acres of **OATS** for all purposes in 2006, down from 2,100 acres a year ago. Farmer intentions in early June were to harvest 45 percent of the 2006 planted acres for grain, the same as in 2005.

**POTATO** growers planted an estimated 820 acres in 2006, compared with 830 acres last year and 870 acres in 2004.

**ALL HAY** is intended to be harvested from 26,000 acres in 2006. This acreage is up from the 21,000 acres actually harvested in 2005. **Tanana Valley** growers intend to harvest 13,000 acres of all hay/silage, up from 9,800 acres in 2005. **Matanuska Valley** growers plan to harvest 10,500 acres of all hay/silage, up from 8,700 acres 2005. **Kenai** and the rest of the State plan to harvest 2,500 acres of all hay/silage in 2006, unchanged from last year.

JUNE ACREAGE PLANTED			
	2006	2005	2004
Barley	5,000	4,600	4,600
Oats	1,900	2,100	2,200
Potatoes	820	830	870
All Hay*	26,000	21,000	21,000

\*area for harvest

## U.S. JUNE ACREAGE SURVEY

**Oats:** Acres seeded for the 2006 crop year totaled 4.31 million acres, up 2 percent from last year's planted area. Growers expect to harvest 1.91 million acres for grain, up 5 percent from the 2005 harvested acreage of 1.82 million. Area planted to oats increased or remained unchanged in 17 States, while area harvested for grain is expected to increase

or remain unchanged in 24 States. The largest increase in planted area is expected in Texas, which is up 70,000 acres from the previous year to 760,000 acres. Wisconsin is expecting the largest increase in harvested area, up 35,000 acres from last year. Area expected to be harvested for grain increased by 20,000 acres from last year in both Kansas and Texas. Compared with 2005, the largest decline in planted area is in Minnesota, down 30,000 acres.

**Barley:** Growers seeded 3.50 million acres for 2006, down 10 percent from the 3.88 million acres seeded a year ago, and the lowest since barley planted acreage estimates began in 1926. Acres for harvest, at 2.99 million, are down 9 percent from the 2005 level, and the lowest since 1885. North Dakota growers planted 1.05 million acres, a new low since records began in 1926, and expect to harvest 950,000 acres, the lowest since 1936. In Montana, planted area is down 100,000 acres from last year to the lowest level since 1953, while Idaho's 560,000 planted acres is the lowest since 1967. California, Colorado, Minnesota, and South Dakota producers set new record lows for planted acreage, with records going back to the 1920s.

**Hay:** Producers expect to harvest 62.7 million acres of all hay in 2006, up 2 percent from 2005. Harvested area of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures is forecast at 22.4 million acres, up fractionally from last year. All other hay harvested area is expected to total 40.3 million acres, up 3 percent from a year earlier. The major increases in alfalfa hay acres are expected in states from the Great Basin westward to the Pacific Coast, the central areas of the Great Plains and Corn Belt, and in Pennsylvania and New York. These increases are nearly offset by decreases in the northern Great Plains, Southwest, and western and eastern Corn Belt.

**Summer Potatoes:** Growers in the summer producing States planted an estimated 57,800 acres of potatoes this year, up 8 percent from last year but 1 percent below 2 years ago. Harvested area is forecast at 56,100 acres, a 9 percent increase from last year and 4 percent more than 2004. Planted acreage in 8 of the 11 estimating States has increased from 2005. The increase in acres is due in part to higher prices and lower stocks of fall potatoes.

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## POTATO STOCKS

All potato stocks (bin-run) in **Alaska** on June 1, 2006 totaled 32,000 cwt, down from the 43,000 cwt on hand a year ago. The five-year average stocks on hand June 1 is 30,800 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes since the start of the harvest to June 1 totaled 134,000 cwt. Last year, disappearance to June 1 was also 134,000 cwt. Disappearance since May 1 was 29,000 cwt compared with 27,000 cwt a year ago and the five year average of almost 28,000 cwt.

The disappearance since October 1 reflects sales, shrinkage and waste, as well as losses caused after harvest by late blight and frost damage. In 2005 late blight was identified in fields in the Mat-Su Valley. Losses in the field due to late blight ranged from severe to mild. Losses post-harvest are included in the disappearance. In 2004 there was a small loss of potatoes due to frost damage, while in 2003 there was significant loss due to frost damage that is reflected in the disappearance.

The **15 Major Potato States** held 40.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage June 1, 2006, down 23 percent from last year and 13 percent below June 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 11 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, down 2 percentage points from last year.

Disappearance of 333 million cwt from the start of harvest to June 1, is down 4 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 24.7 million cwt, is down 23 percent from last year for comparable States.

## MILK PRODUCTION

**ALASKA:** May milk production of 800,000 pounds was unchanged from April 2006's 800,000 pounds. Production was down 500,000 pounds from May 2005. Milk cows, at 800 head, were down 400 head from a year ago. Production per cow at 1,060 pounds was up 40 pounds from April and unchanged from May 2005.

Milk production in the **23 MAJOR STATES** during May totaled 14.7 billion pounds, up 2.8 percent from May 2005. April revised production, at 14.2 billion pounds, was up 3.7 percent from April 2005. The April revision represented a decrease of 2 million pounds from last month's preliminary production estimate.

**Production per cow** in the 23 major States averaged 1,782 pounds for May, 22 pounds above May 2005.

**The number of milk cows** on farms in the 23 major States was 8.26 million head, 128,000 head more than May 2005, and 19,000 head more than April 2006.

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